

**BEDSIDE DIAGNOSIS.** By Charles Mackay Seward, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.). The William and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$3.50.

This little book has been written to provide an analytical and systematic aid in the process of differential diagnosis. The author bases his text on the concept of disease as a disturbance of function, which may or may not be accompanied by structural change. He emphasizes that the causes of diseases are often indicated by the grouping and the method of development of symptoms and signs. His approach and discussions are very rational, viewing the patient as a whole and not as a number of separate compartments.

There are 22 chapters, each taking one of the common dominant symptoms of disease as a nucleus for discussion.

The reviewer finds fault with certain omissions and statistics. The common and important symptom of coma deserves consideration as a chapter heading. And, although the author usually accents the role of functional disorders, he quotes such conditions as being responsible for only 28 per cent of pain in the epigastrium (p. 61), whereas peptic ulcer is responsible for 59 per cent of gastric symptoms in hospital patients (p. 71). These percentages certainly seem weighted.

In general, however, this is an excellent book. It is recommended primarily as a teaching guide but can be of considerable service as a quick reference for the practitioner's diagnostic problem.

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**EXHIBITIONISM.** By N. K. Rickles, B.S., M.D., Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Senior Consultant at the Veterans Administration Center, Los Angeles, Consultant in Psychiatry to the Office of the Surgeon General, Medical Department, United States Army, and Director of the Psychiatric Center of Seattle. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$5.00.

In the introduction, the author states, "This is not intended to be, in any sense, the final or definitive treatment of the subject." With this the reviewer can agree, since reading the book leaves one with no very clear idea of the genesis of exhibitionism or its treatment.

The author's thesis is that exhibitionism in the male is a normal primitive phenomenon which has been banned by the process of civilization. The repression of this urge, which is accomplished by most individuals before adulthood is reached, fails in the exhibitionist, and the reason for this failure is traced to revolt against a dominating mother.

The whole approach to the problem is from the psycho-analytical viewpoint and would not be acceptable to all psychiatrists not so trained. The idea that exhibitionists are suffering from mental illness and should receive psychiatric treatment we can certainly not quarrel with, although the low yield of therapeutic results can be seen from the account of some of the author's cases contained in the appendix.

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**MEDICAL GYNECOLOGY.** By James C. Janney, M.D., Associate Professor of Gynecology, Boston University School of Medicine, Associate Visiting Gynecologist, Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals—Second Edition—Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$6.50.

Your reviewer has often wondered why there should be a division between medical and surgical gynecology since the two are inseparable and must be taught as a unit of general medicine. Most of the books labelled "Medical Gynecology" do not stick to their purpose but devote considerable space to surgical procedures without presenting adequate details. Janney's "Medical Gynecology" is no excep-

tion. As the author says himself, the book is the result of a series of lectures for medical students and your reviewer comes away with the feeling that no other merit is attached to this book, although it is meant "to be a refresher for the general practitioner to bring him up to date on the newer developments in the field." Your reviewer has looked diligently through the subject matter and admits reluctantly that he found little that could not be read more profitably in any standard textbook or even in the much maligned but very handy little compends called "Office Gynecology." What a pity that the author did not purge his brain-child of many archaic notions before presenting it again to the medical public in a made-over dress. For example, who ever would agree with the statement that cervicitis is a common source of bleeding and that astringent tampons are beneficial in treating the relaxed outlet? Your reviewer's strictly personal reaction to Janney's "Medical Gynecology" is that it has little to offer that is not treated more adequately and authoritatively in any of the well known gynecologic texts.

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**RECENT ADVANCES IN CHEMOTHERAPY.** By G. M. Findlay, C.B.E., Sc.D., M.D., F.R.C.P., Editor, Abstracts of World Medicine and Abstracts of World Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics, British Medical Association, Third Edition. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$7.50.

This volume is by far the best and most comprehensive review of chemotherapy of parasitic diseases that has appeared thus far. Unfortunately, the advances in chemotherapy have been so extensive that it is not possible to review them all in a single volume. Thus, the third edition of Findlay's "Recent Advances" is Volume I of a four-volume series. It contains the chemotherapy of scabies and of helminthic and protozoal diseases with the exception of malaria.

The author has covered the world literature in an amazingly precise fashion. Since the volume is well indexed and contains most of the pertinent references in the fields of chemotherapy covered, it is possible for the physician and student to consult original sources. Most important is the presentation of a more balanced view toward the role of chemotherapy and the exposition of the development of drug resistance by parasites which are pathogenic for man.

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**THE PHYSIOLOGIC BASIS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE—A Text in Applied Physiology.** By Charles Herbert Best, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., D.Sc.(Lond.), Professor and Head of Department of Physiology, University of Toronto; and Norman Burke Taylor, V.D., M.D., F.R.S.(Canada), F.R.C.S.(Edin.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), Professor in the History of Medicine and Medical Literature, University of Western Ontario. Fifth Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1950. \$11.00.

Since its first edition appeared in 1937, this book has been regarded much as a "medical bible," and it remains so today. In this, its fifth edition, it still gives more information about the physiological basis of medical practice than any other book—even though it appears less oracular in 1950 than it did in 1937.

This edition has had fairly extensive revision, done for the most part by Dr. Taylor, but a considerable part of the material of earlier editions has been retained. This gives rise to a certain amount of unevenness in the text. The ratio of misspelled words is fairly high (for example, on page 658 the word metabolism is misspelled in the heading for chapter 50).

It is still highly recommended to all students of medicine, including the practicing physician who wishes a clearer understanding of the basic facts involved in his practice.